

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
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R 271229Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0817
INFO AMCONGEN BOMBAY
AMCONGEN CALCUTTA
AMCONGEN MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: FURTHER RELEASES OF MP'S AND MISA DETAINEES

REF: NEW DELHI 988

1. IN PARA FOUR OF REFTEL WE REPORTED THE RELEASE OF TWO MP'S, T.S. LAKSHMANAN AND MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA, THUS BRINGING DOWN TO 17 THE NUMBER OF MP'S UNDER DETENTION. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE LEARNED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES OF THE RELEASE OF SEVEN MORE MP'S. CONTRARY TO PAST PRACTICE, REPORTS OF THESE RELEASES WERE NOT CARRIED AS ITEMS IN ALL THE DELHI PAPERS; RATHER, THE NEWS APPEARED IN JUST ONE PAPER OR MORE OFTEN IN A OUT-OF-TOWN NEWSPAPER, IN ONE INSTANCE, THE RELEASE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AT ALL: WE GATHER THAT THE MP IS "OUT" BECAUSE HE RECENTLY ATTENDED AN OPPOSITION PARTY MEETING. THE SEVEN MP'S ARE:

(A) DR. L. N. PANDEYA, JAN SANGH MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA. PANDEYA, WHO HAD BEEN ON PAROLE, WAS RELEASED ON JANUARY 23. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CARRIED THE NEXT DAY IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"PATRIOT."

(B) BHAGIRATH BHANWAR, BLD MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA. BHANWAR WAS ALSO RELEASED ON JANUARY 23 AND THE NEWS WAS CARRIED IN THE "PATRIOT."

(C) NOORUL HUDA, CPM MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA. NO DATE

WAS GIVEN FOR HIS RELEASE, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARED (AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE) IN ONLY ONE NEWSPAPER, THE "PIONEER" OF LUCKNOW.

(D) THREE DMK MP'S WERE RELEASED ON JAN. 24: P.A. SAMINATHAN (LOK SABHA), MURASOLI MARAN (LOK SABHA) AND M. KAMALANATHAN (RAJYA SABHA). "THE HINDU" OF MADRAS CARRIED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALL THREE RELEASES, MARAN IS THE NEWPHEW OF DMK CHIEF M. KARUNANIDHI.

(D) S. S. BHANDARI, JAN SANGH MEMBER OF THE RAJYA SABHA. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RELEASE HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS, WE GATHER THAT HE IS OUT OF JAIL FROM THE FACT THAT AS THE PARTY'S GENERAL SECRETARY HE PRESIDED OVER THE JAN SANGH'S WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING LAST WEEKEND AND LATER ADDRESSED A PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. THESE RELEASES BRING DOWN THE NUMBER OF DETAINED MPS TO ELEVEN AND THOSE ON PAROLE DOWN TO FIVE. WE SHOULD ADD THAT THESE FIGURES (AS WELL AS THOSE WHICH WE REPORTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT) DO NOT INCLUDE THE NAMES OF TWO MPS WHO WERE ARRESTED FOLLOWING THE EMERGENCY BUT WHO SUBSEQUENTLY RESIGNED FROM THEIR SEATS WHILE IN JAIL, MADHU LIMAYE AND SHARAD YADAV. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE STILL UNDER DETENTION, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THEM TO BE SITTING MPS IN LIGHT OF THEIR RESIGNATIONS.

3. AS FOR OTHER DETAINEES, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE NUMBER OF MISA DETAINEES IN DELHI'S TIHAR JAIL CONTINUES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECLINE. AS WE REPORTED IN NEW DELHI 907, SOME 200 OF THE 730 MISA PRISONERS WERE RELEASED FURING THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PM'S RADIO BROADCAST. CONSULAR OFFICER LEARNED ON JANUARY 25 THAT ONLY "ABOUT 200" MISA DETAINEES WERE LEFT IN TIHAR AND THAT 80 MORE WERE TO BE RELEASED THAT SAME DAY. LESS SPECIFIC REPORTS ON THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES APPEAR ALMOST EVERY DAY IN THE PRESS FROM OTHER STATES. THE OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO COMPLAIN, HOWEVER, OF THE NUMBER OF PARTY MEMBERS WHO ARE STILL UNDER DETENTION. THE JAN SANGH JANUARY 24 ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT 3700 OF ITS PARTY WORKERS WERE STILL IN PRISON AND THAT 10,000 MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ALTOGETHER REMAINED IN JAIL. A KEY ELEMENT IN THESE FIGURES IS RSS AND JAMIAT-I-ISLAMI PERSONNEL WHO ARE HELD FOR BEING MEMBERS OF "BANNED" ORGANIZATIONS, MANY UNDER DIR RATHER THAN MISA AND WHO WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RELEASED.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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